

The view of BAUR is sustained throughout, that these two "graft hybrids" consist of a core of *Crataegus* tissue overlaid by a mantle of *Mespilus*. In *Crataegomespilus Asnieresii* the mantle is the single epidermal layer, while in *C. Dardari* the first subepidermal layer is also of *Mespilus* tissue. By periclinal divisions this subepidermal layer may come to be represented by a number of cell layers, *Mespilus* chromosomes having been identified as deep as the eighth cell layer in one case. As the initiation of lateral branching results from periclinal divisions in the second subepidermal layer, the author argues that no chimera would be able to maintain itself as a chimera in which the mantle should consist of more than two layers. Several "reversions" to one or the other component species, and changes from one of the chimeras to the other, are described and easily explained, and one sectorial branch is figured and described.—G. H. SHULL.

Albinism in maize.—The important studies of EMERSON² on the inheritance of albinism and partial albinism in maize have been continued by one of his students.³ Two different forms of albinism are found, one in which the seedlings are pure white, the other in which they are yellowish white, the latter turning slightly greenish as they grow older and sometimes developing enough chlorophyll to reach maturity. Both of these sorts of albinism prove to be simple Mendelian recessives to the normal green stains. The pure white seedlings could not be used in breeding, but the yellowish white supplied several mature plants which were selfed and which gave progenies consisting entirely of yellowish white seedlings. When plants heterozygous for the pure white were crossed with plants heterozygous for yellowish white, all of the offspring were green, showing that the normal green plants possess two determiners, the absence of one of which gives rise to pure white seedlings, while the absence of the other gives yellowish white seedlings. In confirmation of this interpretation, the second generation from these crosses between the heterozygous plants consisted of four different kinds of families: (a) all green; (b) green and pure white in the ratio 3:1; (c) green and yellowish white in the ratio 3:1; and (d) green, yellowish white, and pure white in the ratio 9:3:4. These results demonstrate the existence of the same genotypic situation in maize that NILSSON-EHLE⁴ assumed to be present in rye in which pure white and yellowish white albinos were also found.

A continuation of the work on yellowish green (chlorina) plants described by EMERSON confirmed that investigator's conclusions that the yellowish

² EMERSON, R. A., The inheritance of certain forms of chlorophyll reduction in corn leaves. Rep. Nebr. Agric. Exp. Sta. 25:89-105. 1912.

³ MILES, F. C., A genetic and cytological study of certain types of albinism in maize. Jour. Genet. 4:193-214. pl. I. 1915.

⁴ NILSSON-EHLE, H., Einige Beobachtungen über erbliche Variationen der Chlorophylleigenschaft bei den Getreidearten. Zeitschr. Ind. Abstamm. Vererb. 9:289-300. 1913.

green is a simple Mendelian recessive to the normal, and a similar result was obtained in crosses between the striped forms known as *Zea japonica*, in crosses with the normal green strains, the striped being recessive to normal, though in the latter cross there is some confusion when certain differences in aleurone colors are also involved in the same cross. The exact nature of this relation between aleurone colors and leaf colors was not worked out. Crosses between striped plants and chlorina, and between striped and yellowish white yielded in each case normal green plants, owing to the bringing together of complementary factors.

MILES also made a study of the chloroplasts in the several strains with which he worked. He could find no plastids in the pure white seedlings, and only a few small plastids in the yellowish white, which became more numerous and larger as the plants grew older, until they resembled, in the better developed individuals, the normal condition. In the case of striped-leaved plants, the arrangement of the plastids showed a sharp distinction between the cells of the green portions of the plants and those of the white stripes.—G. H. SHULL.

The physiology of pollen.—In his work on the physiology of pollen, TOKUGAWA⁵ dealt with three main points of interest: factors determining germination, factors determining the direction of the pollen tube, and factors determining the rate and extent of the growth of the pollen tube. The investigator adds evidence against the views of MOLISCH and of BURCH that specific substances on the stigma generally determine whether the pollen will germinate or not. Already many cases have been found in which the physical conditions are the important ones in determining germination. JOST showed for various species in several families that restricted water supply is the main requirement for the germination of the pollen. He secured this condition by germination of the pollen in a saturated atmosphere or on leaf epidermis or parchment paper. TOKUGAWA adds many more to the list. He has evidently failed, however, to notice the work of MARTIN,⁶ which shows the important newly discovered fact that conditions giving a free water supply to the stigma may lead to sterility. This holds for alfalfa and certain clovers in the central Mississippi Valley when pollination occurs at moist or wet periods.

The author confirms the statement that sugars and proteins are important chemotropic substances for the pollen tube. In certain plants (*Narcissus Tazetti* and *Prunus mume*) sugars are effective, and in other (*Camellia japonica*) proteins. He concludes that chemotropism determines the entrance of the tube into the stigma canals and the micropyle, and that the tube is directed in a physical manner in the rest of its course.

The conditions affecting growth of the pollen tube are considered in relation to their significance in determining self-sterility and failure to

⁵ TOKUGAWA, Y., Zur Physiologie des Pollens. Jour. Coll. Sci. Tokyo 35:1-35. figs. 2. 1914.

⁶ BOT. GAZ. 56:112-126. 1913.